



00862.022011

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
: Examiner: Tia A. Carter
MINORU KUSAKABE ET AL.)
: Group Art Unit: 2626
Application No.: 09/671,623)
: **RECEIVED**
Filed: September 28, 2000)
: NOV 10 2004
For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS)
: November 8, 2004
AND METHOD, AND STORAGE)
: **Technology Center 2600**
MEDIUM)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 6, 2004, Applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group IV, directed to Claims 47 to 58. Applicants respectfully submit that there is sufficient overlap between the groups as to make prosecution of the application in its entirety the most efficient means for advancing prosecution. Accordingly, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.
office by telephone at (202) 530-1010 All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Didas", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Didas
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